



## Finger Lakes National Forest, Hector, New York

# Forest Happenings!!

Caring for the Land and Serving People

### Winter Happenings

*Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.*

~Edith Sitwell

### Firewood Permits

Firewood Permits are available for purchase. The 2 cord minimum still applies for \$20.00, or you may purchase up to 10 cords for \$10.00 per cord. Only dead and down timber may be removed. The annual permit is good until December 30, 2013.

Make sure you have your permit in your possession and you are properly recording each load of firewood.

In the near future, a significant amount of firewood will become available along Potomac Road, as the Town of Hector intends to do some clearing in the road right of way. We will most likely send a press release out when this occurs.

### Camping



Blueberry Patch was spruced up late this fall, and new accessible grills installed when the Forests Leadership Team came to visit. It was a great opportunity for the leaders on both Forests to get their hands dirty and get acquainted with the Finger Lakes National Forest. Any day outside of the office is a good day!

Potomac Group Campground also received a facelift with the installation of a new grill and replacement boards on the benches near the fire ring.



Blueberry Patch Campground is now closed for the winter, however for those who enjoy a winter camping experience you may camp at the Backbone Horsecamp or make a reservation for the Potomac Group Campground.



## Trails

Keep an eye out for the new "Ride-Thru" Trail gates that have been installed. Installation was recently completed – and we would love to hear what you think about them! The one below is located on the No-Tan-Tatko Trail off of Seneca Road.



Broken trail boardwalks continue to be replaced as time and funding permits. Most recently a section was replaced with boards made of out composite decking (similar to what is now being used for decking material). Our hope is that this decking will last longer and hold up to the elements better than wood. You will come across it when walking south of Teeter Pond on the Interloken Trail. Let us know what you think of it!

## Snowmobile Trails

Snowmobile trails are now open thru March 15 (snow dependent of course). Without our long term partnership with the *Twin Lakes Snowmobile Association* trails would not be open on the Forest for your use. We encourage every Snowmobiler to give back a little of their time to ensure trails remain open, volunteer and become active in with your local club. For more information on the Twin Lakes Snowmobile Association please visit ...

[www.twinlakessnowmobile.com](http://www.twinlakessnowmobile.com)



## Hurricane Sandy Impacts

We were fortunate to not have any impacts from Hurricane Sandy on the Forest, but did want to send out a special *THANK YOU* to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference for their help in clearing trees that did come down off the trails after the storm had passed.

## In Search of...Butternut Trees

The search continues for Butternut trees on the Forest and nearby private properties that have no outward appearances of the Butternut Canker disease. As we find and document these, they will become part of a long term study to see if a resistant tree can be found to propagate. This is an ongoing project in conjunction with Forest Service Research. Any area landowners who think they may have Butternuts that appear healthy are welcome to contact our office for more information.

## Range

The 2012 grazing season is officially over and now begins planning for the 2013 grazing season. The grazing season ended with a continued successful partnership between the Hector Grazing Association and the Forest. This past summer/fall the Hector Grazing Association with help by manager Mark Welch and others; mowed



over 1000 acres, removed over 10,000 feet of old fencing and managed over 1700 cattle on the Finger Lakes National Forest.

### *New trough installations*

In order to improve water quality downstream and water quantity for the cows themselves, two troughs at ponds were replaced or installed this fall (Johnson and Horton pastures respectively).



**Figure 1- Johnson pasture trough before work was completed.**

The new design incorporates using old heavy equipment tires and an improved pad for the trough to rest on. The tires will hold 800 gallons, move the animals away from the associated pond and require little maintenance.



**Figure 2- Johnson pasture trough as work is being completed.**

*Your assistance needed...*

On Friday, November 23 two cows were shot on the National Forest. If anyone has any information regarding this incident, please contact Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer, Michael Klingensmith at (802) 767-4261 ext. 214.

### *Caywood Point Hemlock Woolly Adelgid- NEPA*

In October, Mike Bohne (Forest Health Protection (FHP)) and Mark Whitmore (Forest Entomologist- Cornell) came out to evaluate the area for a FHP funded project proposal which would include a potential hemlock wooly adelgid chemical treatment. It was agreed that the released beetle was not working quick enough and that without some chemical treatment the current hemlock mortality would greatly increase in the next few years. As such, we have a proposed action out for scoping (ends late Dec.) and if decided upon will offer a locally important source to study the effects of this chemical treatment on HWA, and more importantly slow the infestation and prevent further decline of the Hemlocks located at Caywood Point.

### *Wildlife Happenings*

This past October a mastication/mowing contract was awarded to a local contractor in hopes that some of the non-desirable woody vegetation, most of which was non-native, could be controlled in some of the grasslands and pastures. This contract involved the use of a mini-skid steer with a mulching head attachment that specializes in cutting up woody plant material up to a few inches in diameter. Multiflora rose, one of the many non-native and invasive plants found here, has proven to be a real problem in many of the grasslands. These grasslands provide critical nesting grounds for many regionally sensitive birds. Many of these non-native plants are beginning to



grow and expand within these grasslands, thus reducing the available grasses and forbs that are essential to a functioning grassland ecosystem.

Before



After



Based on the success of the Food Drive held in the Fall, the staff on the Forest decided to give back to the community once again.

This past holiday season the staff held a toy drive collecting and subsequently donating over 40 toys to U.S. Marines Toys for Tots® Foundation annual Toy Drive.

***Check it out!***

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, the staff further helped at the Syracuse regional distribution warehouse by sorting and counting toys brought in from around central New York.

We would like to thank those from the community who dropped off toys and participated in this effort. We would also like to thank the Marines who spearhead effort every year – you guys and gals make a huge difference.

Be forewarned, we'll be back next year – hopefully with an even greater number of gifts in hand!







The Finger Lakes National Forest made the cover of the "American Forests" Fall 2012 magazine. If you would like to check out the great article, you can find it online at... [www.americanforests.org/newsroom/](http://www.americanforests.org/newsroom/)

### *Farewell...Will Brendecke*

At the end of January, we will sadly bid Will Brendecke, Acting Natural Resource Specialist a fond farewell. Will has been working on the Forest since the beginning of last summer on a detail.

He jumped in with both feet when he got here and never hesitated to get his hands dirty, help others out and truly make a difference on the Forest.

We will all miss his sense of humor, work ethic and passion he has for our Natural Resources. Best of luck in all your future endeavors!

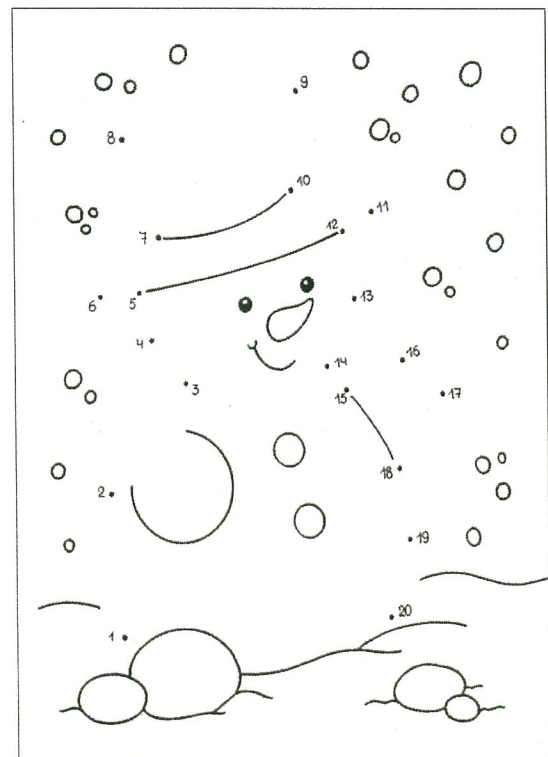
### *From the Ranger...*

Happy New Year! It has been another incredible year on the Forest with a lot of great work being accomplished once again. A few "THANK YOUs" are in order...

- I huge thank you to all of our partners and volunteers – without you all we would never be able to accomplish all that we do.
- A thank you also needs to go out to the employees of this Forest as well, specifically...Paul, Rebecca, Mary, Sherise & Will. I couldn't ask for a better group of people to work with!

Next year is lining up to be just as busy, with hopefully a new employee arriving sometime in early spring and a lot of projects happening on the ground.

As always, I encourage you all to get out and enjoy the National Forest that is right in your backyard! - Jodie



# ***JUST FOR KIDS - - JUST FOR FUN!***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **My Field Journal**

As you explore outdoors, keep a record of the things you observe. On the back of this page, draw sketches of what you see or tape photographs to it. Look all around you: up high, down low, and everywhere in between. Watch for big and small...birds and bees, flowers and trees. Above all, have fun!

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Animals I saw: \_\_\_\_\_

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Animal signs I saw: \_\_\_\_\_

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Plants I saw: \_\_\_\_\_

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Interesting things I noticed: \_\_\_\_\_

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